

CHESAPEAKE BAY TRI-STATE CRUISE : Saturday October 19th

Sure, people make fun of New Jersey all the time: “What exit?” But the southern part of the state is different. The Atlantic Shore (apart from Atlantic City) can be lovely, the Pine Barrens alluring, and the little known western shore, AKA the “Clamshell Coast” is undeveloped and rural, with farmlands and shell fishing villages as well as some fascinating Revolutionary era history. This was the breadbasket of the 13 colonies, and in 1778, during the brutally cold winter, Washington’s Revolutionary Army was camped on the far side of the Delaware River at Valley Forge, PA. The British occupied Philadelphia at the time, and both armies needed food from South Jersey which made the Alloway Creek Bridge strategically important. The Hancock House stood at the base of the bridge and late one night British soldiers bayoneted a dozen sleeping occupants. We visit the house which stands guard over the tiny bridge.



We get there the long way. Starting here in SE PA, we first cross the Mason-Dixon Line into Delaware. Leaving Urbania behind, we follow the western shore of the Delaware River south, through phragmites-lined rivulet meanderings. There is no traffic here, as a major highway parallels a few miles to the west. There are curves and high bridges on the way to Dover, where we stop for a tour of the Air Mobility Command

Museum. Next, it’s on to the Chesapeake Bay at Lewes, DE where we board the Cape May, NJ Ferry for a 90 minute cruise including lunch on board. After the morning’s Fall Foliage Spectacle, we now enjoy peaceful views of the Chesapeake Bay, and maybe a dolphin or two.



We’ll disembark in New Jersey and make our way through the Pine Barrens and along the Clamshell Coast, enjoying serene pear orchards and other pastoral farmland views, finally reaching the Delaware Memorial Bridge which brings us back to Delaware, Pennsylvania, and home. A hot meal is waiting for us thanks to my talented wife Lynn, who likes to experiment with new recipes. We are willing guinea pigs, and we feast while recounting the adventure we have shared.



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